

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I understand that Senator HEFLIN has the floor for the next 10 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak as in morning business just for 1 minute.

Mr. HEFLIN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, we have seen a lot of charts and everything. Here, again, we are scaring people. We are absolutely scaring people about things that, No. 1, President Clinton inherited a trend that was already started; that we know that tax cuts put a spur in the economy and more revenues come into the Treasury.

I want to put everybody on notice about these scare things—what is going to happen, what might happen—that Americans don't back up very quickly; we don't scare very easy. We know we have a problem, and it will take America to solve it. And this last illustration is absolutely bogus.

So I just want the American people to put them on notice that we don't scare too easy. We didn't build this country to the pinnacle we have today by backing up, going in reverse in this country. We are not prepared to do that.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HEFLIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO THE RT. HON.  
MICHAEL JOPLING, D.L., M.P.

Mr. HEFLIN. Madam President, several of us in the U.S. Senate, as well as some in the House of Representatives, have had the pleasure over the years of knowing and working with the Right Honorable Michael Jopling, a British Member of Parliament and former Minister of Agriculture under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He has been a familiar and most welcome participant at both the North Atlantic Assembly sessions and at the British-American Interparliamentary Group meetings in which some of us have participated. He is well respected by his fellow Members of Parliament, both Conservative and Labour alike. Mr. Jopling, whose retirement from the House of Commons is imminent after close to 33 years in the Parliament, has served as secretary to this important and engaging interparliamentary group for the past 9 years and served the previous 4 years as its vice chairman. The position of secretary is a most important responsibility, since that officer is the chief liaison official with the American delegation. The secretaries of the delegations make most of the logistical decisions. The exchange plan he helped institute is an excellent program and vehicle for dealing with issues common to our two countries. He has referred to his activities with the British-American group "as a labour of love" and believes "with a great deal of passion that the continued warm relationship

between Britain and the United States is crucial for world peace."

Mr. Jopling was an outstanding and courageous Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food in the British government for two 4-year periods between 1979 and 1987. Some of his policies angered British farmers, since he was appointed at a time when food surpluses under the Common Agricultural Policy of Europe had reached very high levels. It has been said that he was a victim of Jopling's law, which says that whatever you do is going to be unpopular with the environmentalists for not going nearly far enough and with the farmers for doing far too much. For those of us who serve on the Agriculture Committee, Jopling's Law has particular resonance. Nevertheless, he stood firm and became a moving force during the 1980's for bringing the Common Agricultural Policy of Europe under control. Under trying circumstances, he endeavored to achieve a proper and reasonable balance on these issues and always acted in a manner that served the public interest. He was warmly praised and encouraged by former American Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter.

He also served as government chief whip. The government and the opposition in Parliament both appoint whips whose duty is to manage the affairs of the party and to organize their members to provide support. The government chief whip is in charge of the important responsibility of arranging the scheduling of the government's business in the House of Commons. This is done in consultation with the opposition chief whip.

In addition, he was assistant whip, spokesman on agriculture, deputy spokesman on agriculture, secretary of the conservative MPs' agriculture committee, and a member of the Select Committees on Science and Technology, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, and Privileges. He was also vice chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, chairman of the Select Committee on Sittings of the Commons, and president of the Auto Cycle Union.

Michael Jopling was born on December 10, 1930 in Ripon, Yorkshire. He was educated at Cheltenham College; King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Durham University, where he earned a degree in agriculture. He is a farmer, sharing a 500-acre farm in Thirsk, Yorkshire "on some of the finest arable land in the country." He has also served as a consultant to the Hill and Knowlton public relations firm.

Mr. Jopling represents Westmorland and Lonsdale, an area of Great Britain which is dominated by agriculture and tourism, with some light industry. One British newspaper referred to it as "a curious mixture of farmers in tweeds and sprightly geriatrics \* \* \*". While I do not think of him as being "geriatric," he certainly reflects the overall nature of his constituency. He has been called "a farmer in politics rather than

a politician who makes agriculture his specialty." He is known as being likable, engaging, and affable. I have had the pleasure on several occasions to swap humorous stories with him about the politics, government, and cultural idiosyncracies of our respective nations. He is a practical joker who has said that "riding a motorcycle is one of the life's most exhilarating experiences."

He is also a serious leader who pays close attention to the nuances of public policy and who judges by eye and instinct. His voice of reason at NAA meetings has helped guide favorably its deliberations and improved its decisions.

He has always supported a strong national defense and strong NATO. He often criticized backsliders like Canada "with its miserable 1.2 percent of GNP" for defense expenditures. He also warned the British cabinet to take "unpopular decisions, if necessary" to ensure the Army had the best tank possible.

His natural manner is one of caution, of getting all the facts before making a decision. He instinctively distrusts high-flown theory, preferring instead the directness of personal dialog and negotiation. His height, square build, and rustic manner often conjure up the image of a genial giant, but his country gentleman appearance often masks his shrewdness, keen sense of politics, and analytically sharp mind. All these traits come together to give him an unusual ability to take the full measure of a person, situation, or piece of legislation objectively, but always with an eye toward accomplishing his goals.

I am pleased to commend and congratulate the Right Honourable Michael Jopling for his outstanding leadership and dedication as a Member of the British Parliament and as a British good-will ambassador at-large. I wish him, as well as his red-haired, beautiful, and talented wife, Gail Dickinson Jopling, all the best as he approaches retirement. He deserves our profound thanks for his many lasting contributions over the years to British-American relations in general and for his personal commitment to preserving the special nature of the relationship between our two great nations. After he leaves government service, I hope he will continue to use his enormous talents and energies to benefit British-American relations.

Madam President, I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator withhold?

Mr. HEFLIN. I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand, under the standing order, that I have 10 minutes. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is correct.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair advise me when I have used 8 minutes of the 10?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We will let you know.